

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 2, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, as amended, and consideration of the following remarks.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the interview on February 27, 2003 with Applicant's counsel, Jim Thein, in which the objections to the specification were discussed.

Amendments

To the Specification and Drawings

Applicant has amended the specification herein and is submitting a request for drawing correction herewith to overcome the objections to the specification and drawings. No new matter has been added as the amendments are supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed.

To the Claims

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the terms in the claims and to delete references to the term "step" and "steps" to indicate that Applicant does not intend for these claims to be interpreted under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6. No new matter has been added.

Objections

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figures 1c, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 12.

In regard to the objection to Figure 1c, Applicant is submitting a red-lined Figure 1c to include the correction suggested by the Examiner.

In regard to the objection to Figure 2, Applicant has amended the paragraph starting at line 12 on page 13 of the specification to include a reference to memory 225. Applicant respectfully submits that the same paragraph originally contained a reference to selector 220.

In regard to the objection to Figure 4, Applicant has amended the paragraph starting at line 5 on page 13 of the specification to include a reference to circuit 420.

In regard to the objection to Figures 6 and 7, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings illustrate examples of score distributions whose detailed illustration is not necessary to understand the invention and thus do not have to be shown [MPEP 608.02(d), citing 37 CFR 1.83]. Furthermore, Applicant is not claiming subject matter illustrated in Figures 6 and 7.

In regard to the objection to Figure 9, Applicant has amended the paragraph starting at line 7 on page 18 of the specification to include references to steps 910, 915, and 930.

In regard to the objection to Figure 12, Applicant respectfully submits that Figure 21 in U.S. Patent 6,307,979 is identical to Figure 12 as evidenced by the descriptions of Figure 12, at page 22, lines 19-24 of the present specification, and Figure 21 at column 10, line 63 through column 11, line 17 in the '979 patent. Because the '979 patent was incorporated by reference at line 7 on page 22, Figure 21 was incorporated into the present application. Applicant has included a red-lined version of Figure 21 in the request for drawing correction and requests its entry as Figure 12.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the approval of the drawing changes withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification as containing certain informalities.

In regard to the objection to the brief description of Figure 1a-c, Applicant respectfully submits that it is customary to refer to drawings as illustrating alternate embodiments of the invention and that no further description is required under either 35 U.S.C. or 37 C.F.R.

In regard to the objection to the descriptions of Figure 12 on pages 6 and 22-23, Applicant respectfully submits that the entry of the red-lined version Figure 21 from the '979 patent overcomes the objection.

In regard to the objections to the typographical on pages 9 and 12, the errors have been corrected.

In regard to the objection to description number 520 on page 12, lines 22 and 26, Applicant respectfully refers the Examiner to the element "Encoded Bitstream" illustrated in Figure 5, which is labeled with reference number 520.

In regard to the missing U.S. Patent number on page 22, line 7, Applicant has inserted the patent number.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objections to the specification.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a substitute specification is not warranted under these circumstances and requests the withdrawal of the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.125(a).

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 44-45 and 77. In response, Applicant has cancelled claim 77, and amended claims 1 and 44-45 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objections to the claims.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-76 and 78-96

Claims 1-76 and 78-96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the terms "candidate hypotheses", "hypothesis" and "candidate decodings" were unclear. Applicant has amended the specification to differentiate the terms by deleting the adjective "candidate" from "candidate hypotheses," and has amended the claims to correspond to the amended specification.

With regard to the difference between "hypotheses" and "candidate decodings," Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner attention to the specification at lines 23-26 on page 7 (as amended herein) and at line 26 on page 9 through line 2 on page 10. As described therein, the hypotheses correspond to possible values for lost/damaged data in a bitstream. These hypothesized values are used to generate candidate decodings that may be used to recover data in the bitstream. In one embodiment of invention, the hypotheses

specify values for quantization bits(Qbits) and motion flag (MF) information, and the candidate decodings recover quantization (Q) codes.

Accordingly Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-76 and 78-96, as amended, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-76 and 78-96 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-3476.

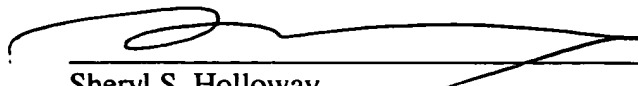
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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